

## COLORADO STATE SENATE

**# OF DISTRICT SEATS: 35**

COLORADO CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V, SECTION 45

**TERM OF OFFICE: 4 YRS.**

COLORADO CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V, SECTION 3

**MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT: 25 YRS.**

COLORADO CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT AT LEAST 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION**

COLORADO CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

**CITIZENSHIP: U.S. CITIZEN**

COLORADO CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

### ACCESS TO BALLOT

#### PARTY DESIGNATION - PETITION - WRITE-IN

##### PARTY DESIGNATION

- IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION BY ASSEMBLY AS A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION, A PERSON MUST BE AFFILIATED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY HOLDING THE ASSEMBLY FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ASSEMBLY, UNLESS PARTY RULES STATE OTHERWISE. C.R.S.1-4-601 (4) (a); 1-4-1304 (2) (b)
- CANDIDATES FOR COLORADO STATE SENATOR SHALL BE DESIGNATED DURING THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY. NO ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD LATER THAN SEVENTY DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION. POTENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD CONTACT THE POLITICAL PARTY OF THEIR CHOICE TO DETERMINE THE EXACT DATE AND TIME OF THAT SPECIFIC ASSEMBLY. THE POLITICAL PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING PARTY PROTOCOL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, PARTY CAMPAIGN RULES AND OTHER SUCH MATTERS OF A POLITICAL PARTY NATURE. C.R.S. 1-4-601 (1); 1-4-1304 (1.5) (b) (I)
- DURING THE ASSEMBLY, ONLY DULY ACCREDITED ASSEMBLY DELEGATES THAT ARE PRESENT MAY VOTE FOR CANDIDATES. A CANDIDATE NEEDS AT LEAST **30%** OF THE VOTES OF ALL DULY ACCREDITED ASSEMBLY DELEGATES PRESENT AND VOTING ON THAT SPECIFIC OFFICE. HOWEVER, SHOULD NO CANDIDATE SEEKING DESIGNATION TO THAT SPECIFIC OFFICE RECEIVE 30%, A SECOND BALLOT SHALL BE CAST. IF ON THE SECOND BALLOT NO CANDIDATE RECEIVES 30% OR MORE OF THE VOTES CAST, THE TWO CANDIDATES RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY THE ASSEMBLY. C.R.S. 1-4-601 (2); 1-4-1304 (1.5) (b) (II)

- AFTER THE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES HAVE VOTED AND DESIGNATED CANDIDATES FOR EACH OFFICE, THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION OR A FACSIMILE COPY THEREOF SHALL BE FILED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN FOUR DAYS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THAT ASSEMBLY. IF THE DESIGNATION IS TRANSMITTED AS A FACSIMILE, THE ORIGINAL DESIGNATION MUST ALSO BE FILED AND POSTMARKED WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THAT ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, LATE FILING OF THE CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION SHALL NOT DEPRIVE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CANDIDACY. C.R.S. 1-4-604 (3), (5); 1-4-1304(3)
- CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO FILE A WRITTEN ACCEPTANCE OR FACSIMILE COPY THEREOF TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN FOUR DAYS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THAT ASSEMBLY. IF THE ACCEPTANCE IS TRANSMITTED AS A FACSIMILE, THE ORIGINAL ACCEPTANCE MUST ALSO BE FILED AND POSTMARKED WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THAT ASSEMBLY. THE ACCEPTANCE SHALL INDICATE THE PREFERENCE AS TO HOW THE CANDIDATE WISHES THEIR NAME TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT. CANDIDATE NAMES SHALL NOT CONTAIN ANY TITLE OR DEGREE DESIGNATING THE BUSINESS OR PROFESSION OF THE CANDIDATE. IF ANY ACCEPTANCE IS NOT FILED WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME, THE CANDIDATE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE DECLINED THE DESIGNATION. C.R.S. 1-4-601 (3); 1-4-1304 (4)
- PARTY DESIGNATIONS AND CANDIDATE ACCEPTANCE FORMS ARE PROVIDED BY THE POLITICAL PARTY AT EACH ASSEMBLY.

### **POLITICAL PARTY PETITION**

- NO PERSON WHO ATTEMPTED AND FAILED TO RECEIVE AT LEAST 10% OF THE VOTES FOR THE NOMINATION BY A POLITICAL PARTY FOR A PARTICULAR OFFICE SHALL BE PLACED IN NOMINATION BY PETITION ON BEHALF OF THAT POLITICAL PARTY FOR THE SAME OFFICE. C.R.S. 1-4-801 (4); 1-4-1304 (1.5) (a)
- A CANDIDATE MUST HAVE BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF FILING THE PETITION. C.R.S. 1-4-801 (3)
- PARTY PETITIONS SHALL NOT BE CIRCULATED OR SIGNATURES OBTAINED ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE LAST MONDAY IN MARCH. PETITIONS MUST BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE NO LATER THAN SEVENTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION. C.R.S. 1-4-801 (5); 1-4-802 (d) (II)
- ALL PETITION FORMATS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

PRIOR TO CIRCULATION AND THE PETITION MAY ONLY CONTAIN ONE CANDIDATE'S NAME FOR THE SAME OFFICE. C.R.S. 1-4-901, 1-4-903

- ONLY ELIGIBLE ELECTORS WITHIN THAT SENATORIAL DISTRICT MAY SIGN THE PETITION FOR WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS TO BE ELECTED. EACH SIGNER OF THE PETITION MUST BE AFFILIATED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY NAMED IN THE PETITION FOR AT LEAST TWENTY-NINE DAYS PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF THE PETITION AS SHOWN ON THE REGISTRATION BOOKS OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER. C.R.S. 1-4-904 (1), (2)
- IN ORDER TO QUALIFY BY PETITION, THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED IS **1000** SIGNATURES **OR** SIGNATURES EQUAL TO **30%** OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE DISTRICT AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR THE POLITICAL PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE PETITION IS BEING CIRCULATED, **WHICHEVER IS LESS**. HOWEVER, IF NO PRIMARY ELECTION WAS HELD, THEN CALCULATE 30% OF THE LAST PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION FOR WHICH THERE WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE. C.R.S. 1-4-801 (2) (b)
- IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO CIRCULATE ANY PETITION, A PERSON MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE VOTING DISTRICT FOR THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE PETITION IS BEING CIRCULATED AND AFFILIATED WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY MENTIONED IN THE PETITION AT THE TIME THE PETITION IS CIRCULATED, AS SHOWN BY THE REGISTRATION BOOKS OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER. C.R.S. 1-4-905 (1)
- PETITION SIGNATURES SHALL BE VERIFIED AND IF FOUND TO BE SUFFICIENT IN NUMBER SHALL BE DEEMED VALID UNLESS A PROTEST IS MADE IN WRITING WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE STATEMENT OF SUFFICIENCY IS ISSUED. C.R.S. 1-4-908 (1), (3); 1-4-909 (1)

#### **UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE PETITION (GENERAL ELECTION ONLY)**

- NO PERSON SHALL BE PLACED IN NOMINATION BY PETITION UNLESS THE PERSON IS AN ELIGIBLE ELECTOR OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR DISTRICT IN WHICH THE OFFICER IS TO BE ELECTED. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (g)
- A CANDIDATE MUST BE REGISTERED AS UNAFFILIATED FOR AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE LAST DATE THE PETITION MAY BE FILED. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (g)
- THE PETITION FORMAT SHALL CONTAIN THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE AND SHALL DESIGNATE IN NOT MORE THAN

THREE WORDS THE POLITICAL NAME OR OTHER NAME WHICH THE SIGNERS SELECT. NO NAME OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY SHALL BE USED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FOR THIS PURPOSE. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (a)

- ALL PETITION FORMATS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRIOR TO CIRCULATION AND THE PETITION MAY ONLY CONTAIN ONE CANDIDATE'S NAME FOR THE SAME OFFICE. C.R.S. 1-4-901, 1-4-903
- THE PETITION SHALL NOT BE CIRCULATED OR ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED PRIOR TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX DAYS BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION. PETITIONS MUST BE FILED IN THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3 P.M. ON THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTIETH DAY PRECEDING THE GENERAL ELECTION. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (d) (f)
- ONLY ELIGIBLE ELECTORS WITHIN THAT DISTRICT MAY SIGN THE PETITION FOR WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS TO BE ELECTED. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (c)
- IN ORDER TO QUALIFY, A PETITION MUST RECEIVE AT LEAST **600** SIGNATURES **OR** SIGNATURES EQUAL TO **2%** OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE SENATE DISTRICT IN THE MOST RECENT GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF MEMBER OF THE STATE SENATE, **WHICHEVER IS LESS**. C.R.S. 1-4-802 (1) (c) (IV)
- IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO CIRCULATE ANY PETITION, A PERSON MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE VOTING DISTRICT FOR THE OFFICE FOR WHICH THE PETITION IS BEING CIRCULATED, AS SHOWN BY THE REGISTRATION BOOKS OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER. C.R.S. 1-4-905 (1)

### **WRITE-IN**

- ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO BE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE SHALL FILE AN AFFIDAVIT OF INTENT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE AFFIDAVIT MUST BE FILED NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE SIXTY-SEVENTH DAY BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION AND BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE SEVENTIETH DAY BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION. C.R.S. 1-4-1101 (1), 1-4-1102 (1)

### **GENERAL**

- PROOF OF REGISTRATION AND AFFILIATION QUALIFICATIONS SHALL BE AS SHOWN ON THE VOTER REGISTRATION BOOKS OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER. C.R.S. 1-4-501 (1)
- BEFORE A NOMINATING PETITION MAY BE FILED, IT MUST HAVE A

NOTARIZED ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION ATTACHED TO IT. C.R.S. 1-4-906

- CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO BE FAMILIAR AND COMPLY WITH THE CURRENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE COLORADO CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE PROVISIONS, ARTICLE XXVIII TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND TITLE 1 ARTICLE 45 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES.

**USE THIS AS A REFERENCE GUIDE ONLY. ALWAYS REFER TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND COLORADO REVISED STATUTES FOR APPLICABLE LAWS.**